

NORTHAMPTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of Medical Officer of Health for the year 1925.

MARCH, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Northampton Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my REPORT for the year 1925.

The area of the district is 16,218 acres.

The estimated population for 1925 is 7,849. For 1924 the population was 7,797; for 1921 was 7,360.

The number of inhabited houses for 1921 was 1,669.

The number of families or separate occupiers for 1921 was 1,774.

The rateable value of the district is £13,878. The sum represented by a penny rate is £184 5s. 4d.

The district is essentially an agricultural one, some of the inhabitants work at the boot trade at home, whilst a fairly large number go in daily to Northampton to work in the factories there.

The BIRTHS for 1925 total 152 (91 males and 61 females). 1 male and 2 female births were illegitimate.

The births make a ratio of 19·3 per 1,000 of population: this compares very favourably with the birth-rate for England and Wales of 18·3.

The DEATHS for 1925 total 77 (33 males and 44 females). This makes a ratio of 9·8 per 1,000 of population compared with 12·2 for England and Wales, so the death-rate also compares very favourably with that for England and Wales.

3 males and 3 females died under 1 year, 1 of these female infants was illegitimate; this makes a ratio of 39 per 1,000 births, compared with 75 for England and Wales. 2 of these infants were premature, 1 had convulsions when three days old and one died from peritonitis, aged 19 weeks.

The ages of the people dying in the district were roughly as follows:—1 to 10 years, 1; 20 to 30, 4; 40 to 50, 6; 50 to 60, 2; 60 to 70, 9; 70 to 80, 15; 80 to 90, 11; over 90 years, 3, aged respectively 91, 91, 92.

One female, aged 49, committed suicide by drowning in the district; 1 female died from Enteric Fever, 1 male from Influenza, 4 males and 2 females from Respiratory Tuberculosis and 1 male from Tuberculous Meningitis, 2 males and 5 females from Cancer, 1 female from Diabetes and 4 from Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 5 males and 7 females from Heart Disease and 1 male and 1 female from Disease of the Arteries, 3 females died from Bronchitis and 2 males and 2 females from pneumonia, 4 males and 3 females from Nephritis. No deaths from Diarrhœa in children under two years. There were no deaths from Scarlet Fever, Measles, Whooping Cough or Diphtheria.

Hospital relief is used much the same as formerly, there does not seem to be much increase.

HOSPITALS.—1 Tuberculosis. This hospital is provided by the County Council, at Rushden, where cases suitable for treatment are received in their turn into the Sanatorium. Cases are first seen and examined by the Tuberculosis Officer for the County. 2.—Maternity and 3.—Children: Urgent maternity cases and children requiring in-patient treatment are sent to the Northampton Hospital. 4.—Fever Hospital: Cases of Scarlet Fever are, by

arrangement with the Hardingstone Rural District received into their hospital, but not Small-pox cases. 5.—Small-pox cases, by an agreement with the Brixworth and Daventry Rural Districts, are received into the Brixworth Fever Hospital. Any infectious fever cases from Brixworth Rural District are then transferred to the Daventry Rural District Hospital.

An Orthopaedic Hospital for children has been opened at Weston Favell, at present about 20 beds are available. This serves the district of Northampton and a wide radius round.

The Northampton Hospital is available for all ordinary cases and cases of accidents and emergencies. An In-patient letter is required for most of these cases, or an Out-patient letter if treated as such.

Unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children are taken into the Northampton Workhouse. The children are boarded-out in the Scattered Homes if possible.

An ambulance for infectious cases is borrowed from the Hardingstone Rural District. For non-infectious and accident cases the St. John Ambulance from Northampton can be hired, or they are moved in a motor-car.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is in Northampton.

The Treatment Centre for Venereal Diseases is at the Northampton Hospital.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS. 1 District Medical Officer of Health (part time), and one Sanitary Inspector.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.—(a) General nursing is undertaken by the Northamptonshire Nursing Association. One or more villages subscribe for the support of a nurse, she is then available for maternity cases and ordinary cases.

(b) **INFECTIOUS DISEASES.** — Measles cases can, if necessary, have a special nurse on application by the District Medical Officer of Health to the County Medical Officer of Health; these nurses if not required for Measles cases are available for cases of Whooping Cough or Epidemic Diarrhoea.

MIDWIVES.—There are three midwives in the district.

All chemical work is done for the Council at the Pathological Laboratory at the General Hospital.

WATER.—The villages of Duston, Dallington and Weston Favell are supplied by mains from Northampton; Nether Heyford and Kislingbury have supplies of their own; Little Billing and Upton are supplied by pipes from private supplies. The remainder of the villages are supplied by wells, the majority of which are shallow ones. There has not been any shortage on any of the public or private supplies, and no cases reported of any of the wells going dry.

SEWAGE SCHEMES.—Great Billing has a septic tank with land irrigation and subsoil drains. Little Billing has earth closets. Bugbrooke pail closets: for sink waste there is a septic tank with overflow running over gravel into the brook. Dallington has mostly earth closets, one house is connected to the town sewerage. Private houses have their own systems of septic tanks. Duston has its own scheme running into septic tanks with overflow over filter beds: there is also a scheme for automatic flushing of the drains. Harpole, earth closets. Nether Heyford, pail closets. Upper Heyford, Kislingbury and Upton have earth closets. Berry Wood Asylum has its own system of septic tank, the effluent is pumped over the land. Weston Favell is connected to the town sewers.

All these have been working satisfactorily throughout the year, and no complaints have been received respecting these.

SCAVENGING.—A weekly collection of the contents of pail closets is made in the villages of Bugbrooke and Nether Heyford, and twice weekly in the village of Dallington. A weekly collection of household refuse is made at Weston Favell, a monthly collection at Duston, and a quarterly collection of indestructible refuse is made in the other villages.

There were only two School closures.—Bngbrooke in January for three weeks on account of Measles and Mumps, Kislingbury in February for four weeks on account of Measles.

There is still a shortage of houses in the district. The Council has taken steps to remedy this: besides the Council houses being built, the Borough of Northampton has built a large number of houses in the Weston Favell district for the needs of the Borough.

HOUSING.—Number of new houses erected during the year	...	...	111
As part of Municipal housing scheme	...	...	75

Unfit dwelling houses.—Total number of houses inspected for housing defects...	25
Number of houses inspected and recorded under Housing Regulations 1910...	—
Number of houses found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...
Number of houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...
Remedy of defects without service of formal notice	...
Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	...

PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS :—

Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	15
Number of houses in which defects were remedied by owners	...	...	15
By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	—

PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11, 14, 15, OF HOUSING ACT, 1925 :—

Number of representations made with a view to the making of a Closing Order	—
Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...
Houses voluntarily closed	...
Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the houses having been rendered fit	...
Number of Demolition Orders served	...

PLANS were passed during the year for 19 new houses: in addition to these, applications were received for the subsidy grant to build 27 houses. All these applications were granted. The applications came from the following villages:—Duston 13, Weston Favell 13, Nether Heyford 1.

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL'S 1919 HOUSING SCHEME :—

	Houses Built	Houses Occupied
Great Billing	6	6
Dallington	20	20
Duston	50	50
Kislingbury	6	6
Weston Favell	50	50
	<u>132</u>	<u>132</u>

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL'S 1924 HOUSING SCHEME :—

	Houses Built	In course of Erection	Prospective	Occupied
Bngbrooke	4	4	8	4
Harpole	8	4	4	8
Nether Heyford	4	4	8	4
Upper Heyford	2	2	0	2
Kislingbury	0	0	12	0
	<u>18</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>18</u>

Tenders have now been accepted for the whole of the houses and it is anticipated that they will be completed and ready for occupation by October 31st of this year, making a total of 64.

Built by Northampton Corporation in Weston Favell parish :—

179 houses—all occupied. 14 huts—all occupied.

57 houses were started and completed during the year and more are in course of erection.

NUISANCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

		Nuisances found	Informal Notices	Statutory Notices
Insanitary Closets and Ashpits	...	25	25	—
Defective and Choked Drains	...	10	10	—
House Structural Defects	... ..	5	5	—
Smoke Nuisances	... ..	2	2	—

41 houses have been disinfected during the year : 31 after cases of Scarlet Fever, 8 after cases of Tuberculosis, 2 after cases of Diphtheria.

66 visits have been made to various properties to test drains, chiefly to new houses being built or alterations to existing houses.

Dairies and Cowsheds number 47 in the district, an increase of 2. 52 inspections have been made and 6 informal notices *re* lime-washing. These have been complied with. 32 persons are registered as milk purveyors, an increase of 4 during the year.

The milk supply is good throughout the district.

No action has been taken with regard to Tuberculosis milk or cattle.

No licences have been granted for the sale of milk under special designations.

No refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk.

			Number of Private Slaughter-houses		
			In 1920	In Jan., 1925	In Dec., 1925
Registered	...	...	6	6	10

45 inspections were made in addition to calls made when slaughtering is being done. One carcase of pork (100 lbs.) was surrendered and condemned. The slaughter-houses generally are satisfactory. Where alterations were necessary for them to comply with the new regulations, they were readily carried out by the owners or occupiers concerned.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are 7 used for baking bread. These are quite small places, generally employing 1 person. 8 inspections were made ; no notices were served. There are no underground bakehouses.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.—There are 5 factories in the district : 9 inspections were made. A complaint was received *re* the offensive smells from a fat boiler's, in Mill Road, St. James'. When the premises were visited it was found that the drains taking the effluent from the condensing plant were defective. These were relaid and now appear to be satisfactory. The plant at this place appears to be quite up-to-date and should work without giving cause for complaints.

There are 4 workshops employing more than two persons. 4 inspections were made ; no notices were served. In addition to the above there are a number of small workshops such as blacksmiths', carpenters' and outworkers' shops in the boot trade, generally used by one person only. These are inspected from time to time when making inspections in the district.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Scarlet Fever has been very prevalent during 1925. Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied on request by any doctor, from the General Hospital. No use has been made of the Schiek or Dick tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES :—

		No. of Cases	To Hospital	Deaths
Small-pox	... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	27	17	—
Diphtheria	...	7	—	—
Enteric Fever	...	1	—	1
Puerperal Fever	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	18	—	—
Erysipelas	...	6	—	4
Chicken-pox	...	66	—	—

Scarlet Fever cases occurred chiefly at Dallington and Duston (6 each), and 5 at Heyford. 1 case at Little Billing was contracted outside the district. 5 of the Diphtheria cases came from Berry Wood, 10 of the Pneumonia cases came from Weston Favell.

Chicken-pox :—Bugbrooke 23 cases. Duston 20. Harpole 8, Kislingbury 10. One case at Harpole was visited with Mr. Paget, as it was thought to be small-pox, this fortunately proved to be a false alarm. Several cases were visited by me at Bugbrooke.

TUBERCULOSIS. 23 cases notified, 2 of these were transferred from other districts.

New Cases (Pulmonary) :—

Males, ages 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 28, 28, 37, 42, 43 = 11

Females „ 7, 16, 23, 26, 41, 43, 45 62 ... = 8

Non-Pulmonary :—1 Female, aged 7 years.

Deaths (Pulmonary) :—

Males, ages 19, 20, 43, 46 = 4

Females „ 23, 26, 41, 45, 62 = 5

Non-Pulmonary :—1 Male, aged 3. This case was one of Meningitis and had naturally not been notified to me.

Yours faithfully,

H. F. PERCIVAL.

